Mission Action News

Encouraging Lay Men, Women and Youth to Missionary Activity

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Refitted School Bus Do... tra Work as a Moving Missio...

Church Finds Wheels Add To Outreach

By CHARLES HAWKES
ARLINGTON, TEXAS

A church bus can be more than just a vehicle to haul persons to and from church, camps, and other related activities.

Tate Springs Baptist Church near Arlington finds it can be a portable meeting place, a camper for small groups, a truck to haul clothing and furniture, a mobile hotel on mission trips, a moving van, and an extension department for the Sunday School, the Rev. Roy Buckalew reports.

The old school bus, reworked and repainted by men in the church, is well-known, particularly by the children who live in a wide radius of the suburban church. Dedicated workers use it regularly for meetings of "The Good News Clubs," which seek to promote the Gospel through a regular program of recreation, handwork, memory work, music, illustrated Bible study, and direct evangelism.

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THE BUS goes out to the same location each Monday. Then on Tuesday, it's at another location where groups of homes or house trailers have a large population of children.

By removing a section of the rear seats and rearranging others, the bus affords a compact but comfortable classroom area where Good News Club members gather.

It has been wired to provide electric heating as well as to operate visual aid equipment and lighting for night meetings.

The Monday club, with John King, a barber, and his wife, Rita, as sponsors, was started March 15 of this year and already has 20 members. The Tuesday club began last October and numbers 25. Mrs. Tom Gammon and Mrs. A. J. Stewart work with the Tuesday group. Plans call for the start of other clubs for teenagers soon, Buckalew says.

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BUSINESSMEN, DOCTOR, STUDENT, MINISTER — ALL ANSWER

10-Man Team Reaches 700

DALLAS

The mighty Rio Grande still lures men to its sandy shores and majestic cliffs much as it did Hernando Cortez and his Spanish Conquistadores over 400 years ago.

But, while Cortez searched for golden cities of immense wealth, a recent expedition of Texas Baptist men went in search of people with immense needs.

Leaders for this mission action thrust were Al Morgan, associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Oak Cliff in Dallas, and Dr. Jimmy D. Johnson, Dallas physician and member of Kiestwood Baptist Church.

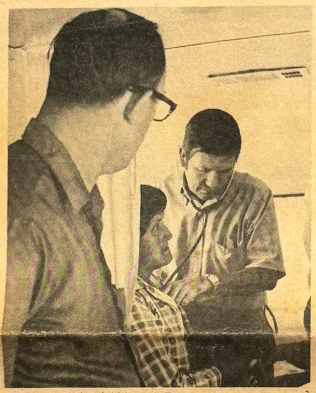
The two men led eight others in a four-night, three-day effort that touched the lives of some 700 Mexicans living in the Redford community, 20 miles southeast of Presidio.

The ten-man crew was sponsored by the Baptist Men's organization of the Oak Cliff Church. It included businessmen Grady Hines, Bill Reese, John Woolard, Steve Gann, Herbert Diaz, Joe Reed and Midwestern College student Ray Graf and Johnson's son, Steven.

Morgan pointed out that the laymen on the trip discovered new ministries.

"For the first time, these laymen used their talents under different circumstances," he noted. "For example, Reese made an excellent pharmacologist with his organizational ability." Reese heads up a local electronic firm.

Hines, a sales representative, gave innoculations publicly for the first time and taught the other men the tricks of the trade. An auditor for Travelers Insurance, Woolard cooked for the crew — without hearing a complaint. Gann, who owns his own plumbing company, was back-up man for all operations.



RIVER WORK — Dr. Jimmy D. Johnson examines a woman in the Big Bend Association's mobile clinic (left picture) while Lloyd Conner, pastor of First Baptist Church of Marfa, looks on. At right, layman Herbert Diaz witnesses to a man who lives along the river.

Graf, a pre-med student at Midwestern, assisted Dr. Johnson on most of the trip. This Baptist young man will be doing research in the summer at M. D. Anderson Tumor and Cancer Clinic, Houston.

Dr. Johnson observed that there were near 1,000 patient-treatments, meaning that many persons received innoculations from team members in addition to being examined and treated by the physician.

"A larger percentage of the ailments were the results of local conditions," said Johnson, noting the effects of prolonged exposure to sun and wind.

"I wish I knew someone who would donate 10,000 pairs of sunglasses," he added. "Those people really needed them."

Morgan, former member of the public relations staff of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, has made many trips to the river. He served with the BGCT when initial surveys were made leading to a decision to promote the river ministry as a project for the involvement of all Texas Baptist churches.

"Our trip had a strong spiritual emphasis as well as medical," Morgan said. "Through interpreters like Mr. Diaz, we were able to share the Gospel message with several hundred persons."

In unique action after the trip, the Oak Cliff church approved for membership a Mexican woman baptized by Morgan in the Rio Grande. It was, perhaps, the first action of its kind anywhere since she was accepted by proxy, and "most likely will never even see

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GOOD NEWS CLUBBERS — Jesus walks on the waters of the Sea of Galilee on the flannelboard presentation being arranged by John King, a barber, for members of the Good News Club which meets each Monday in the specially equipped bus operated by Tate Springs Baptist Church near Arlington. Mr. and Mrs. King work with the youngsters each Monday, while other workers take the bus to other locations for meetings with other children during the week.

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...ness will be increased ... British Honduras is an ...speaking country." ...greement, signed by ... representative ... General Convention of Texas and editor of The Voice of Mission Action.

...summer, a volunteer, in... ...ominational medical team ... Mission Medica Indepen... ...spent a few days in Las ...s, Mexico. The village, ...away in the scenic moun... ...as no cars or trucks, no ... no organized law en... ...forcement and no medical care.

The medical team treated 1,300 people in a few days. Las Truchas has only 68 people but thousands live round about in the mountains

(See BLIND BOY, P. 3)

AMIGOS ON THE MOVE—Jim Wren, left, president of Amigos Internacionales, tells Robert E. Dixon, executive secretary of Texas Baptist Men, about a medical-dental mobile clinic ministry planned for British Honduras. Amigos has signed a contract with the British Honduras government to begin operations in 1972. TBM will assist Amigos in finding needed professional personnel. (Photo By David Clanton)

...the highest camping skills certification offered by the ACA. Only 17 persons in Texas have received the rating. Left to right are Ernie Liebig, a TBM-trained RA worker and minister of activities at Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas; Robert E. Dixon, TBM executive secretary; and Cameron Byler, TBM RA director. (Photo By David Clanton)